

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

1.-16. (Canceled)

17. (New) A method for configuring a computer program including at least one functional unit, comprising:
- at least one of:
 - creating at least one implementation-independent configuration data file,
 - and
 - altering information filed in the at least one implementation-independent configuration data file;
 - at least one of automatically setting-up and automatically updating configuration data, stored in a configuration data container, as a function of the information filed in the at least one implementation-independent configuration data file;
 - automatically generating at least one implementation-dependent configuration data file as a function of the configuration data stored in the configuration data container;
 - and
 - automatically configuring the at least one functional unit as a function of information filed in the at least one implementation-dependent configuration data file.
18. (New) The method as recited in Claim 17, further comprising:
- automatically generating at least one item of dependency information that describes a dependency on at least two configuration data present in the configuration data container; and
 - generating the at least one implementation-dependent configuration data file as a function of the at least one item of dependency information.

19. (New) The method as recited in Claim 17, further comprising:
 - creating a plurality of implementation-independent configuration data files is created; and
 - assigning each of the implementation-independent configuration data files to at least one functional unit.
20. (New) The method as recited in Claim 17, further comprising:
 - generating a plurality of implementation-dependent configuration data files, and
 - assigning each of the implementation-dependent configuration data files to at least one functional unit.
21. (New) The method as recited in Claim 20, wherein the at least one implementation-dependent configuration data file is generated as a function of at least one property of hardware on which an installation of at least a portion of the configured computer program is to be made possible.
22. (New) The method as recited in Claim 20, wherein the at least one implementation-dependent configuration data file is generated as a function of a result of a plausibility check.
23. (New) The method as recited in Claim 22, wherein the at least one hardware property is used for carrying out the plausibility check.
24. (New) The method as recited in Claim 20, further comprising:
 - automatically creating a documentation that describes the information filed within at least one of the at least one implementation-independent configuration data file and the at least one implementation-dependent configuration data file.
25. (New) The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein the at least one implementation-independent configuration data file is created in an XML-based format.
26. (New) The method as recited in Claim 17, further comprising:
 - automatically determining, as a function of the configuration data, whether a functional unit included by the computer program is needed by the computer program, wherein the functional unit is only configured if the functional unit is needed by the computer program.

27. (New) A software system for configuring a computer program including at least one functional unit, the software system comprising:
- at least one implementation-independent configuration data file;
 - at least one of:
 - a configuration data container including configuration data, and
 - an arrangement for creating the configuration data container as a function of information filed in the at least one implementation-independent configuration data file;
 - an arrangement for at least one of altering and reading out configuration data from the configuration data container;
 - an arrangement for automatically generating at least one implementation-dependent configuration data file as a function of configuration data stored in the configuration data container; and
 - an arrangement for automatically configuring the at least one functional unit as a function of information filed in the implementation-dependent configuration data file.
28. (New) The software system as recited in Claim 27, further comprising:
- an arrangement for at least one of:
 - creating the at least one implementation-independent configuration data file, and
 - altering information filed in the at least one implementation-independent configuration data file;
 - an arrangement for at least one of automatically setting-up and automatically updating configuration data, stored in the configuration data container, as a function of the information filed in the at least one implementation-independent configuration data file;
 - an arrangement for automatically generating at least one implementation-dependent configuration data file as a function of the configuration data stored in the configuration data container; and
 - an arrangement for automatically configuring the at least one functional unit as a function of information filed in the at least one implementation-dependent configuration data file.

29. (New) The software system as recited in Claim 27, wherein the software system is stored in a storage medium.
30. (New) The software system as recited in Claim 27, wherein the software system is stored in one of a random access memory, a read-only memory, and a flash memory.
31. (New) The software system as recited in Claim 27, wherein the software system is stored on one of a digital versatile disk, a compact disk, and a hard disk.
32. (New) A computing element having a microprocessor and being programmed with software that when executed results in a performance of the following:
at least one of:
creating at least one implementation-independent configuration data file,
and
altering information filed in the at least one implementation-independent configuration data file;
at least one of automatically setting-up and automatically updating configuration data, stored in a configuration data container, as a function of the information filed in the at least one implementation-independent configuration data file;
automatically generating at least one implementation-dependent configuration data file as a function of the configuration data stored in the configuration data container;
and
automatically configuring the at least one functional unit as a function of information filed in the at least one implementation-dependent configuration data file.
33. (New) The computing element as recited in Claim 32, wherein the computing element corresponds to a control device.